



DOC NewsLine

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“Times are Changing”

Inmates Plays Easter Bunny

Submitted by Cathy Fontenot, LSP

Louisiana State Penitentiary inmate organizations recently donated \$2000.00 worth of candy to stuff Easter baskets for the kids of Evangeline Head Start Center in Baton Rouge. Approximately 100 baskets were prepared at the maximum-security prison. The baskets will be delivered to Department of Corrections Headquarters.

According to Deputy Secretary Jannitta Antoine, Corrections Headquarters staff began volunteering each month to read to children at the center in April 2000. On November 11, 2000, the Department of Corrections officially adopted Evangeline. Since then staff have initiated a number of special activities that strongly emphasize positive, fun-filled and educational parent-child relationships. These include a clothes closet dubbed “Small-Mart Clothiers,” a food drive, the dedication of ten computers and volunteering their assistance at the center’s Love Your Child Day, Week of the Young Child and Octoberfest.

Warden Burl Cain is proud of the inmate organization’s ability and desire to help when they can. “It shows that they are sincere about giving back.” The inmate organizations are staff sponsored, inmate created and committed to positive community building at Angola. The groups include religious, educational, civic and recreational based affiliations. Throughout the year, these clubs raise funds to support their missions through approved concessions operated in visiting centers and during the prison’s popular

rodeo events.

Angola inmate Lafayette Ballard stated that, “it makes you feel good giving something back to society, doing something positive that people said couldn’t have been done in prison. When I was on the street, I never thought of doing something for others, only for myself. My mother would be so proud of me for doing something so positive because that is the way she raised me.” Inmate Robin Polk and inmate Morris Harrison were fortunate to be chosen to assist Ballard in filling the baskets. Any left over candy will be shared with young visitors coming to visit their loved ones in prison during the Easter holiday weekend.

It should also be noted that the women’s inmates at the Louisiana Correctional Institution for Women dyed 500 eggs donated by Warden Jones and staff.



EHCC'S Host Successful Black History Program

Submitted by Sonya Suggs, EHCC

EHCC held its 14th annual Black History Program with the theme, "Excel in Education." The K-Building was overflowing with the largest crowd ever- including staff members, 219 inmates and IMPACT trainees.



Representative Broome was the keynote speaker. She has achieved many successes in life, including being the first African American woman elected as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Louisiana House of Representatives, the first African American woman elected to the Louisiana State Legislature for East and West Baton Rouge parishes, representing District 29. While serving her fourth term, she was selected by the *Baton Rouge Business Report* as one of the "Top 25 Most Influential Women."

During her speech, Representative Broome talked about being concerned about your fellowman, having a relationship with God, and reaching for your goals. She noted that sometimes we don't make the best choices, but the good news is that there is redemption and we have another opportunity.

Members of the inmate population provided skits stressing the importance of African Americans refraining from destructive behavior and society coming together for the common good of humanity.

In addition, there was a Black History Quiz entitled, "Who am I?" that questioned participants regarding African American historians. Canteen items were given, as prizes to those answering correctly. The program also included singing and excerpts of speeches from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Carter G. Woodson.

A special thanks goes to Deputy Warden Hubert for putting together this program and to Representative Broome for being our keynote speaker; Colonel Michael Vincent, Lt. Col. Betty Johnson and Chaplain Ross English for assisting in the event's coordination; also to Ms. Helen Horton and the Culinary Department for assisting with refreshments.

Catholic Community Services

Submitted by Chris Gaudet, EHCC

On the evening of March 10, 2004, my wife Kay and I attended the 40 year anniversary celebration of the establishment of Catholic Community Services in Baton Rouge. During her annual report, Ms Deborah Roe, the executive director of CCS, gave examples of people who exemplified the agencies charitable works.

She mentioned prison ministries several times during her talk. When she was wrapping up her comments, she told the audience of receiving a check from Elayn Hunt Correctional Center in the amount of \$15. She said it was from an inmate who earns 4 cents an hour, and that the donation was intended to go to the Prison Ministry program.

According to Ms Roe, this was an example of the positive effects CCS has on the people they serve and another example of how well the religious programs are managed here at Hunt. Chaplain English and the other ministers are to be congratulated. I am very proud to be part of an organization that is represented so well to the community.

ESGR

Submitted by Pam LaBorde, HQ

Secretary Stalder signed on to a national program aimed at supporting National Guard and military reservists and their families during active duty and especially upon their return home from service.

The Department has been working with the Baton Rouge chapter of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) to establish our commitment to the program. In an informal ceremony, Secretary Stalder expressed his support for the Corrections employees who have served or are serving in Iraq, Afghanistan or other foreign lands. As the first state agency in Louisiana to sign on, DPS&C joins many area businesses that have already pledged their assistance.

“We have dozens of employees and families who have been asked to make enormous personal sacrifices,” explained Secretary Stalder. “Telling the families that we are here to assist them during a deployment and promising soldiers that they will have a job to come to seems the least we can do to alleviate some of the fears they may have.”

ESGR requires a five-step process, the first of which was accomplished at the signing. A look at the Department’s Human Resources policy will follow as well as training for those managers that will oversee the program.

“We have supported our employee even before the ESGR process, but this just goes one step further,” said Secretary Stalder. “Our department will work to ensure the best possible outcome for the employee, his or her family and the state.”

Welcome

Please join Secretary Stalder in welcoming the Honorable Ronald D. Cox, as the Chairman of the Louisiana Board of Pardons and the Honorable Diana “Dee” Simon, as the Chairwoman of the Louisiana Board of Parole.

Chairman Cox and Chairwoman Simon look forward to the opportunity to partner with our Department as they create “a new day in Louisiana” in Governor Blanco’s administration.

ACA Reaccreditation

Secretary Stalder advised that the ACA reaccreditation audit of the Division of Prison Enterprises was successfully completed. Director Leslie and his staff are to be commended for an outstanding job.

Their hard work and dedication was exemplified with a score of 100% in the mandatory standards and 100% in the non-mandatory standards. The audit team commended staff for their professionalism and dedication and the inmate for their self-assurance, knowledge and skill with regard to their job.

Retirement

Congratulations to Mr. Zbigniew “B” Cypel, Human Resources Director, on his retirement. Ms. Cypel began his career in 1972 with the Department of Civil Service and transferred to the Department in July of 1981. He has been a dedicated employee.

Thank you.

Miss America

Submitted by Cathy Fontenot, LSP

Warden Cain says Angola is safe enough for even Miss America to walk through without being treated inappropriately. He got his chance to prove it in March.

Erika Harold, Miss America 2003, pageant's platform was "Respect Yourself: Protect Yourself - Preventing Youth Violence and Bullying." As Miss America she spent the year touring the nation and speaking to schools and even Congress about the dangers associated with bullying and youth violence and how authority figures play an awesome role in encouraging young minds to develop to their fullest potential. Her story of discrimination and harassment touched the hearts of those who heard her. She overcame stereotype placed upon her by becoming Miss America and is now a Harvard Law Student. She said that what was best about her year as America's most beloved symbol was that she got to talk about her tremendous faith in Jesus Christ and how it was faith that guided her through her life.

Warden Cain had spoken to her father in early 2003. Mr. Harold is involved with prison ministry and was touched by the stories he heard about how unique of a prison Angola was - he was especially moved by the warden's philosophy of moral rehabilitation. Mr. Harold knew his daughter would be interested in coming.

Before her visit, the Harold's watched The Farm documentary. Miss Harold said that inmate Eugene Tannehill's (Angola's Bishop) preaching moved her more than seeing "The Passion of the Christ".

Warden Cain asked if she would also talk to students at West Feliciana High as part of the West Feliciana Drug Awareness Council's special events. She inspired over 1,100 middle school and high school aged kids. Then she had a helicopter

tour of the prison, ate great fried fish and ranch house cookies with LSP Wardens and DOC's Deputy Secretary Antoine and Tammy Jetson.

She had a tour of Death Row where she signed inmate bibles and offered words of faith and encouragement. She also visited inmate law libraries and got advice from some of LSP's best "legal minds." She was welcomed for a service at the Camp D Chapel where she spoke directly to over 300 inmates. She presented Bishop Tannehill with a bouquet of roses that were presented to her by the West Feliciana school kids. She was then presented with a trophy made by the inmates. She addressed the inmate population via KLSP radio prior to ending up her visit.

She advised the Warden that she wished to come back. He has invited her to bring along her Harvard Law classmates and teachers.

After officially crowning Warden Cain, she stepped back aboard the Pointe Coupee Sheriff's Office helicopter (that she piloted - even though it was her first ever time in one). Then she boarded a West Feliciana Sheriff's Office four seater plane (you guessed it, she flew that too) to head back to Lake Charles, where she had been asked to speak earlier that week.



Don't Forget

Character Counts.

APRIL = FAIRNESS

- Play by the rules
- Take turns and share
- Be open minded; listen to others
- Don't take advantage of others
- Don't blame other carelessly

MAY = CARING

- Be compassionate and show you care
- Express gratitude
- Forgive Others
- Help people in need

Employee's Recognition

Dixon Correctional Institute (DCI), Elayn Hunt Correctional Center (EHCC), and Washington Correctional Institute (WCI) recognized the following employees for Monthly Awards:

DCI

Master Sergeant Jeffery Sloan– Security Officer

EHCC

Allen Crawford – Support Employee
Master Sergeant Cecil Harper – Security Officer
Lieutenant Anthony Ardoin – Supervisor
Master Sergeant Cecil Harper – Security Officer

WCI

Master Sergeant Lloyd Roberts – Security Officer

Dixon Correctional Institute (DCI) and Louisiana State Penitentiary (LSP), recognized the following employees for Quarterly Awards:

DCI

Gerald Hebert – Support Employee
Correction Captain Arthur Brabham– Supervisor

LSP

Lieutenant Carl Smith – Supervisor

Red Nose Day

Thank you for supporting the 2nd Annual Red Nose Day on Friday, May 7, 2004, hosted by the McMains Children's Developmental Center. I am pleased to let you know that the Center surpassed their goal of



\$25,000.00 with the Department's help of over \$600.00.

Managers...

Administrate.....	Innovate
Maintain	Develop
Focus on structure	Focus on people
Ask how and when.....	Ask what and why
Accept the status quo	Challenge the status quo
Keep an eye on the bottom.....	Keep an eye on the horizon
Do things right	Do the right things

Leaders...